

## IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application.

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method for separation of chemical substances and/or particles, comprising the step of: applying an electric field to a microfluid system consisting of a plurality of adjoining sheets of two or more different phases, perpendicular to the phase boundaries.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4 **[[1]]**, wherein the individual phases are parallel arranged liquid or gel sheets of a thickness in the submillimeter range or smaller.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein different concentrations of a substance having a given physicochemical affinity for the substances or particles or a combination thereof being separated are adjusted in the phases.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 **[[2]]** wherein the individual phases are parallel arranged liquid or gel sheets of a thickness in the submillimeter range or smaller.

14-18. (Cancelled)